THE

Caledonian Mercury

BEING

A ſhort Account of all the moſt conſiderable News, *Foreign* and *Domeſtic*.

Edinburgh, Tueſday October 15, 1723.

From the Evening Poſt, October 10.

Conſtantinople, September 2.

THE Grand Seignior has ordered his Troops that are marching towards the Perſian Frontiers, to encamp near the Army of Meriweys, in order to be ready to join and ſupport it againſt the Muſcovites, in caſe they perſiſt to extend their Conqueſts in Perſia. The Embaſſy of the ſaid Meriweys, which conſiſts of ſeveral Perſons of Diſtinction, having Notice of this Order, took their Audience of Leave of the Grand Vizier on the 28th Paſt, and yeſterday ſet out on their Return home. They had ſome Time ago preſented to the Grand Vizier, 36 Ruſſian Priſoners, who were immediatly claim'd by the Czar's Reſident here, but to no Purpoſe as yet; he has obtained Leave only to ſend to them every Week an Allowance of Money for their Subſiſtence.

The Aga of the Janizaries receiv'd Orders on the 30th Paſt, to prepare for his Departure to the Army, now drawing together on the Ruſſian Frontiers; And we hear will conſiſt of more than 100000 Men after the Tartars have join'd it, and that the 26 Gallies, which have been ſent this Year to Aſoph, tranſported thither 180 Cannon, with a vaſt Quantity of all Kinds of Warlike Stores.

London, October 10. The Prince and Princeſs are expected at Leiceſter Houſe from Richmond about Saturday ſeven Night.

The St. James's Evening Poſt bears, that there has been lately exported for Holland 660 Ounces of foreign Gold, and 36660 Ounces of Silver.

This Day at Noon, South Sea Stock was 111, 7 8ths. South Sea Annuity 99, 5 8ths. Bank 129, 3 Quarters. India 137, one Half. African 11, one Half. York Buildings 12, 5 8ths.

From

Continuation of what we had in our last.

But becauſe all that may ſee or hear of theſe Proceedings may not know ſo much of the Affair, as to be able to judge when, and in what manner a Fraud may be committed; and how far the Patentee, or others may be concerned, it is very neceſſary to give a ſhort Account thereof, and ſuch as may be ſufficient to inform a Perſon of a mean Capacity.

His Majeſty being informed that his Subjects in the Kingdom of *Ireland* were in want of ſmall Money for their Uſe and Service in retail of Trade, makes a Contract with *William Wood* to furniſh his ſaid Subjects with Copper Money The Copper is to be of ſuch Fineneſs, and the Money of ſuch a Weight as agreed upon, and mentioned in the Patent granted for that Purpoſe. Neither his Majeſty (or Lords of the Treaſury on his Behalf) or the Patentee are perſonally concern'd in this Charge. But the Patentee appoints his proper Workmen to make the Money, and his Agent, who is called a Comptroller, and is to examine and ſee that the Money is made good, and agreeable to the Contract; and at the proper Times, or whenever required, is to make a Report thereof to the Lords of the Treaſury. And hereby ſufficient Proviſion is made to prevent any Fraud; and this indeed is the only Means whereby the Publick can be ſatisfy'd, or the Patentee juſtified: For it is not the weighing of 2 or 3 Farthings or Half-pence, nor even of 1 Pound or 2, that can determine any Diſpute; but the Comptroller's Report, who agreeably to the Contract, is to ſee, not that every Farthing or Half-penny, but that in the Groſs they are of a ſufficent Weight.

Now, as to the notorious Fraud that is charged upon the Patentee, how doth it appear? The Comptroller, by Order from the Lords of the Treaſury, has made his Report, that the Coin is good in all Reſpects, and conſequently there is no Fraud at all.

But allowing that the Money was not altogether ſo heavy as it ought to be, whether through the Careleſſneſs, or any Deſign of the Patentee's Workmen and Agent, and his Majeſty's Comptroller combining together [and it cannot be otherwiſe] I ſay, if this were the Caſe, it being directly contrary to the Orders of the Patentee, and without his leaſt Conſent or Approbation, he is in reſpect of Fraud as innocent as his Majeſty or the Lords of the Treaſury, who cannot be charged with any thing that is done amiſs by the Comptroller.

This may be ſufficient to ſatisfy any one but a moſt notorious prejudiced Perſon, that the Patentee is not guilty of any, much leſs of a moſt notorious Fraud: And let every one, who cannot tranſact his Affairs without Agents and Workmen, make the Application to himſelf, and ſee how far he wou'd think himſelf guilty of a Fraud that ſhou'd be committed by them contrary to his Order and without his Conſent or Approbation.

Reſolved, *That its the Opinion of this Committee, That it hath been always highly prejudicial to this Kingdom to grant the Power or Privelege of Coining Money, or Tokens to paſs as Money to private Perſons, and that it will be of dangerous Conſequence at all Times to grant any ſuch Power to any Body Politick or Corporate, or any private Perſon or Perſons whatſoever.*

Obſervation, This Reſolution relating only to his Majeſty's Prerogative, it doth not become the Patentee to anſwer, and ſeeing the intrinſick Value of the Coin is the moſt material Objection made, as chiefly affecting the Intereſt of the Kingdom, the Patentee begs Leave to enlarge a little upon the Subject, and thereby ſhow the common Miſtake about the Kingdoms Loſs.

Objection, The common Price of 1 Pound Weight of unwrought Copper, is 1 s. and accordingly that ought to be called its intrinſick Worth, becauſe it is really ſo. But when it is converted into Coin by the Skill and Labour of the Workman, with waſte of the Metal, to the Value of the 1 s. more, certainly it ought not, or can very improperly then be ſaid to be but of the ſame intrinſick Value as before. For in a rude Lump, or Ingot, were it not for this or ſome other additional Value, it is capable of receiving, by being wrought, it would have no intrinſick Worth at all, becauſe unfit for Uſe. Therefore whatever Charge is beſtow'd upon it to make it uſefull, ought certainly to be added, and accounted Part of its intrinſick Value: As a Piece of Plate receives an additional Value, according to the Workmanſhip beſtow'd upon it.

Again

Again ſuppoſe 1 Pound Weight of Copper from the rude Lump is manufactured into any beautiful and uſeful Veſſel for a private Perſon, and the Charges thereof amount to 4 s. more, would it be ſaid that the Buyer will be 4 s. Loſer by it? And though he really wants it, and cannot conveniently do without it, will he yet refuſe to have it, becauſe he muſt pay for the Workman's Labour, and becauſe if melted down to its priſtine Maſs, after the Uſe and Service of many Years, will it then have no more than its intrinſick Value of a Shilling?

The Caſe of the Copper Coin, being a Manufacture for the Publick, is equally the ſame as the other to a private Perſon:

Further, ſeeing ſuch great Complaint is made againſt this new Coin, it may not be amiſs to ſet this whole Affair in truer Light, and ſo far inform the Publick, That they may be able to judge whether any juſt Occaſion has been given for this Complaint.

There is an abſolute Neceſſity for ſmall Money in any trading Nation, to enable them to carry on retail Trade with greater Eaſe and Conveniency than otherwiſe it would be poſſible.

That the Kingdom of *Ireland* is in greater want of ſuch ſmall Money, is not only acknowledg'd by thoſe concern'd in Trade, but appears from the Application that has been made for many Years paſt, from *Ireland* as well as *England*, both to his Majeſty and his Predeceſſors for a Copper Coinage. And this is alſo evident from the late prodigious Increaſe of baſe Money called Rapes, which were in a Manner made openly and little Notice taken of them till lately, becauſe of the Neceſſity of having thoſe, untill a better lawful Coin cou'd be obtain'd. And, by the Way, the former, as well as the many late Repreſentations of the want hereof, were a ſufficient Foundation for his Majeſty's Grant, in that the preſent Patentee neither needed, nor did ever make any Repreſentation of the State of the *Iriſh* Nation, as he declar'd in his ſecond Obſervation.

His Majeſty has granted this long deſired Coinage, and by virtue of his Royal Prerogative, hath Power to make the Money of what Metal, Weight, Fineneſs and Denomination he in his great Wiſdom ſhall think fit, and to enforce it's Currency and to give the Profit ariſing from the Coinage to whom he pleaſeth.

Now, what uſe has his Majeſty made of his Power? Has he directed this Money to be made of baſer Metal, leſſer in Weight or leſs Degree of Purity or Fineneſs than before? No, his Majeſty gave proper Directions, and his Miniſtry that were concerned, proceeded with ſo much Care and Caution in this Affair, that the Patentee is obliged and doth make this Coin of Finer Copper, greater Weight, and better Performance, and conſequently more intrinſick Worth than any they have at preſent, or ever had before, nay of more intrinſic Worth than the greateſt Part of the Copper Coin of England.

By the Patents granted by K. Charles II. 1660, a half Penny was to be 100 Grains.

By Ditto, granted by K. James II. 1684 the ſame.

The preſent Weight 116 Grains 3 qrs. and upwards, ſo exceed the other almoſt 7 Grains in Weight and much more in Proportion, in Fineneſs of Metal and Performance.

Now, after all this, could it be imagined that this Coin would not be thankfully received, and his Majeſty's great Goodneſs acknowledged in ſo well providing for the Kingdom?

Could it be thought that becauſe he has been thought to give the Coinage to an Engliſhman, and thereby ſome Advantages that would not have been had by an Inhabitant of *Ireland*, That therefore they will refuſe all other Advantages and have none at all? Nay rather chuſe to lie under their Diſtreſs in Trade, ſo long complain'd of. This is like to a hungry Man who will rather chuſe to ſtarve than eat of a Diſh of wholſome Meat, becauſe its not cook'd neatly to his Mind, or eat no Bread at all except he can have a whole Loaf.

Could it be thought, that becauſe his Majeſty has not made uſe of his Power to enforce the Currency of the Coin, but out of his great Goodneſs left every one at Liberty to take only what he wants, to prevent the Fear and Danger of being over ſtocked: That an Advantage wou'd have been taken from thence, and his Majeſty's Kindneſs ungratefully abus'd by a total Refuſal of the Coin? and that thoſe who wanted, and had a Mind to take it, ſhould not be left at Liberty to ſerve their Wants, but be threatned to be ruined, and accounted (as ſeverals have been) Enemies to their Country.

Wy's

Wye's Letter verbatim, London, October 10.

THEY write from Boſtoun in New England of the 22 of Auguſt laſt, That they had Advice there from Surinam, that 2 Dutchmen and a Jew, one of the former being Baker to the Fort, were concerned, with about 40 others, in a Plot for ſetting Fire to that Town, deſigning afterwards to run away with a Veſſel that lay in that River: But all was diſcovered by a Doctor, whom they would have concerned with them. The above 3 Perſons being the Chief, were apprehended, and after Trial, executed. The Doctor had 500 Guilders given him by the Government, as a Reward for his Diſcovery.

Advices from Sweden relate, That the Diſcords and Jealouſies amongſt ſome of the States of that Kingdom were grown to ſuch a Height, that the Succeſs of their Tranſactions is very much doubted; and 'tis feared his Majeſty's Endeavours for bringing the States to a good Underſtanding, will prove fruitleſs, by reaſon certain Perſons ſtill inſiſt, before all Things, firmly to eſtabliſh the Peace with Muſcovy, and fully to ſatisfie the Duke of Holſtein: So that theſe Affairs go according to the Wiſhes of the Ruſſian and Holſtein Miniſters.

We are informed from the Hague, That they are aſſured by their Ambaſſador in France, that the Negociations of the Czar's Miniſter at that Court carry a Proſpect of Succeſs, and that an Alliance between thoſe 2 Powers was very far advanced.

'Tis ſaid the Emperor will not come to any Accommodation with Reſpect to the Oſtend Company, unleſs the States remit Part of the 500000 Crowns Subſidies the Auſtrian Netherlands are obliged to pay them. Mean while, 'tis ſaid their High Mightineſſes will by no Means deſiſt from the Subſidies ſtipulated by the Barrier Treaty, and the ſubſequent Convention made with the Emperor, in Regard to which, the French are likewiſe of the ſame Opinion.

They write from Plymouth, That on the 5th Inſtant, put in there the Chandois from London, bound for Guinea, and was to take in there another Company of Miners for the Service of the African Company to work in the Gold Mines, which have been diſcovered at Gambra ſince the new Settlement there. But after all that has been ſaid of theſe Mines, The Company's Stock continues at the low Price of 11 per Cent.

Laſt Tueſday the Eſtate of Mr. Samuel Reeve one of the late Directors of the South Sea Company, conſiſting of 11000 l. in Eaſt India Bonds placed in Truſt as a Security to purchaſe a Marriage Settlement for his Wife was expoſed to Sale and bought by himſelf for 4005 l. his Life only being in it.

We are imformed from Highamferrers in Northamptou-ſhire, that the Honourable Thomas Wentworth Eſq; Member of Parliament for that Place dyed ſuddenly on Sunday laſt of an Apoplexy, he has left an Eſtate behind him of 17000 l. per Annum, which falls to his only Son Thomas Wentworth Eſq; of Wentworthwoodhouſe, in York-ſhire, and Member of Parliament for Malton in that County.

Letters from Dublin of the 3d Inſtant adviſe, That the Houſe of Commons have reſolved to give further Encouragement for erecting Powder Mills in that Kingdom, and likewiſe to the new Method found out by Thomas Burgh Eſq; for the more correct and eaſy calculating the Contents of any Survey.

The Right Honourable the E. of Angleſey is arrived at his Seat at Blecking-ton near Woodſtock from Ireland.

The E. Couper lyes dangerouſly ill of a Fever at his Seat at Colegreen near Hertford. And Dr. Friend being ſent for to viſit his Lordſhip, ſet out thither this Morning at 2 a Clock.

Yeſterday that great Lawyer Sir Conſtantine Phipps departed this Life and is much lamented.

This Day the D. of Devonſhire ſet out for New-market.

Our Merchants have Advice by private Letters from Languedoc by the laſt French Mail, that ſuch violent Storms of Hail Stones had lately happened in that Country as have entirely deſtroyed the Vintage, and killed ſeveral People, and great Numbers of Cattle.

The River Thames is ſo low on Account of the dry Seaſon, that People frequently ride over it on Horſeback at Twickingham. The like of which has not been known.

The D. of Wharton is recovered of the Hurt, which we lately mentioned he received by a fall from his Horſe.

AD-

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE Truſtees for the Creditors of Colonel *James Ruthven*, alias *Johnſton* of *Graitney*, hereby advertiſe ſuch of the ſaid Colonel's Creditors, who have not given in the Vouchers of their Claims to *William Johnſtoun*, the Truſtees their Clerk, that they do now give them in to him, at Mr. *James Baillie* Writer to the Signet, his Chamber, betwixt and the Firſt of *November* next, otherwiſe the Truſtees will proceed, without Regard to the Debts of theſe who fail to give in their Claims to be aſſign'd for the Ends formerly mention'd.

That Mr. James Craig, *Profeſſor of the Laws in the Univerſity of* Edinburgh, *begins his Colleges on the* Civil Law *upon the Firſt Tueſday of* November *next: as alſo, he will renew his College on the* Inſtitutes *upon the firſt Tueſday of* March *thereafter; and theſe ſtated Times of Mr.* Craig's *beginning his Colleges, being now ſo often advertis'd. 'Tis preſum'd they are ſufficiently known; therefor no Intimation of this Kind is to be expected hereafter.*

A COMPOUND for improving of *Land*, which for it's Virtue, ſurpaſſes any Thing that has yet appeared, *impregnating* the *Seeds*, of every Kind of *Corn*, to ſuch a *Degree*, as ſcarce any *ſingle Grain* miſgives, whereby *Half* the Quantity of *Seed* uſually taken will ſuffice; and from that *Half* ſown, an *Increaſe* is to be expected, modeſtly ſpeaking, *Double*, if not *Triple* of what the full *Seed* would otherwiſe produce; and yet is ſo far from weakening, That it nouriſhes the *Ground*, and puts it in a much better *Condition* than it was before; And *operating* not only upon a *rich Soil*, but ſerving in Place of *Dung*, has alſo a ſurpriſing *Effect* upon the *Coldeſt* and *Pooreſt Grounds*, where no *Dung* is uſed: Of ſuch a *Quality* as it may be kept for a Term of Years without loſing it's *Virtue*. Is made by *Robert Geddes* Chirurgeon Appothecary in *Edinburgh*, and ſold only at the *Laigh Coffee-Houſe* there. Price 1 *s.* a Chopin Bottle.

The Method of preparing the Seed by the Compound.

POur a *Bottle* of the *Compound* upon a *Peck* of *Seed*, of any kind of *Corn*, and ſo proportionably *leſs* or *more*, according to the Quantity of *Seed* to be ſown, without any other *Mixture* whatſoever; let the *Seed* be immediatly moved, or turned over in the *Veſſel*, ſo as it may be all equally *wet* by the *Compound*; continue to move or turn it over, at leaſt *once* every *Half-Hour*, for the Space of *four Hours*, that it may drink the *Compound* wholly up; And whenever the Seed is ſo dry, as it does ſeparate well enough in the *Hand* for *ſowing*, let it be *ſown* into the *Ground*; and cauſe *harrow* the *Ground* without Loſs of Time

N. B. The *Inventer* of this *Compoſition* makes it eaſy to try the *Experiment*, *conſident* of the *Virtue* of the *Compound*; he propoſes the *Simpleſt Method* of uſing it. *Mere Pretenders* uſually leave *much* to be done by thoſe they preſcribe to, that when their *Experiments* fail, they may have a *Handle* left them, to throw the *Blame* from off themſelves.

THat the good Ship named the Anne Galley, *of* Kirkaldie, *Capt.* John Barclay *Commander, Burden* 120 *Tuns, or thereby, free built, with her haill Furniture, as ſhe now lyes in the Harbour of* Leith, *is to be expoſed to Sale, by way of publick voluntar Roup, upon* Tueſday *the* 5*th of* November *next, betwixt the Hours of* 2 *and* 4 *of the Clock Afternoon, in the Houſe of* George Mill; *Merchant upon the Shore of* Leith, *where the Inventary of the ſaid Ship may be ſeen; and at the* Laigh Coffee Houſe *in* Edinburgh.

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